

CEIS Budget and Narrative Nov. 1 Deadline Suspended

For the past few years, there has been a “due date” of November 1 for the Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) budgets / narratives. If LEAs did not submit by this date, DPI has said that they need to wait until the next year to submit an initial CEIS budget. There were two reasons for doing this:

1. The budgeting and expending of CEIS impacts an LEA’s ability to use the “50% rule” when lowering special education maintenance of effort (MOE) from one year to the next. This was a substantial amount with the awarding of the ARRA funds. Since that time, the amounts available under the 50% rule have been minimal and have not had the same impact or importance as they did in FY 2010.
2. LEAs have struggled to understand how CEIS funds can be used and were often caught off guard when required to report the number of students that actually received interventions during the year CEIS funds were expended. The Special Education team felt that if the budget and narrative were submitted early enough, LEAs would have a clearer picture of how the funds may be used and the data reporting requirement involved. The earlier due date has not seemed to have an impact on these areas of concern.

Over the past two years, the Special Education team has focused much attention on the MOE monitoring process and believe that the system in place can deal with CEIS regardless of deadline. As for allowable costs and counting of students, the only way to improve these two areas will be through continuous and intense technical assistance, which is the future plan for all LEAs that budget and expend CEIS funds.

The driving force behind the removal of the November 1 deadline is the need to give LEAs all the tools necessary to meet IDEA’s MOE requirement but also expend the grant. If an LEA determines that there is a need to move special education costs from the IDEA grant this year to meet MOE and in turn free up federal grant dollars, DPI does not want to tie an LEA’s hands when it comes to spending grant dollars in a timely fashion. Some LEAs may not realize that costs need to be shifted until second semester, and closing the option of spending CEIS funds does more harm than good.

Wisconsin Federal Funding Conference – February 27 and 28 - Wisconsin Dells

Due to the overwhelming response (and subsequent waiting list) to get into the November 2011 Federal Funding Conference, WASBO, WCASS and DPI have scheduled an identical conference for February 27 and 28, 2012.

If you had wished to attend the November conference and were unable, please register for the February dates. As was the case during the November registration, spots are filling quickly.

Conference, Session Descriptions and Registration:

<https://m360.wasbo.com/event.aspx?eventID=39107>

For those districts that are interested in learning the different ways to utilize existing resources to implement or expand a Response to Intervention system, there will again be an optional hands-on practicum on Tuesday afternoon. The practicum will keep districts in teams to work through “story problems” with the end goal of learning how to utilize the various funding sources and situations to maximize a district’s ability to fund RtI while learning how to avoid the pitfalls of federal funding non-compliance. Due to the nature of this workshop, space is limited.

Outline of Provisions for IDEA-Funded Contracts

A technical assistance guide is now available to Wisconsin school districts and CESAs to assist them in developing and implementing procurement (purchasing) policies and procedures related to the use of IDEA funds that conform with the EDGAR Section 80.36. The guide, *Procurement of Property and Services Based on Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR): A Technical Assistance Guide for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grantees*, may be found at http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/grt_disc.html. Supplementary documents include an *Outline of Provisions for IDEA-funded Contracts*, a *Procurement Method Decision Tree*, a *Procurement Records Checklist*, a listing of *Wisconsin Statutes Addressing Procurement*, and a *Glossary of Terms*. Please contact Claudia Kessel, Grants Specialist on the Special Education Team at claudia.kessel@dpi.wi.gov or at (608) 267-2349 with questions.